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Eyes and Ears

When Robert P. Patterson, Robert A. Lovett and Sidney W. Souers comprised a committee at the close of World War II to recommend a method of centralized control for American intelligence functions, they scarcely could have imagined what today constitutes the Central Intelligence Agency. The vast structure for which President Eisenhower laid the cornerstone at Langley yesterday symbolizes one of the basic responses to world-wide American responsibilities. The new CIA building also symbolizes the complexity of modern world society in which intelligence activities must be institutionalized—CIA was established as a Federal agency in the National Security Act of 1947. The existence of such a large organization, with many of its operations in the secret category, raises some perplexing questions for diplomacy and some philosophical questions for democratic theory. No one can contend, however, that in today's world such functions are not necessary; nor can CIA's unheralded general success be judged by its occasional blunders. No one can doubt, either, the devotion and sacrifice with which CIA's thousands of employes carry out their important work. Adequate intelligence, as Mr. Eisenhower acknowledged in his tribute to Director Allen W. Dulles and his coworkers, is the essential prerequisite of sound national policy. We join in a warm salute to the CIA.

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